

TO: Chairman and Members

DATE: May 12, 2011

SUBJECT: State Advisory Committee Strategic Plan Update

AGENDA ITEM: E

ACTION:

INFORMATION: X

RESOURCE PERSON: Shalinee Hunter

Summary: Issue: State Advisory Committee Strategic Plan Update

Background Information:

As government continues to pursue realignment of criminal and juvenile justice systems to create efficiencies, the State Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (SACJJDP) role is more important than ever. Focused on supporting counties in serving at-risk and system-involved youth, SACJJDP works collaboratively with the CSA to blend State and Federal funding streams to provide both direct services and systems improvement/reform. Specifically, State funds support county efforts to rehabilitate and supervise youthful offenders and to implement continuums of care in their juvenile justice systems. In turn, Federal funds ensure the effective and efficient use of State funds by focusing on systems development and implementation geared toward best practices and creative innovations for service delivery. In short, State funds support what counties do, while Federal funds support how they do it. (Attachment A)

Toward that end, the SACJJDP's focus on the five priority areas: Alternatives to Detention, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Evidence-based practices, Holistic Approaches to Offender Counsel, and Restorative Justice Principles is in full implementation mode and requires a broad spectrum of collaboration and leadership with respect to system improvement/reform (Attachment B).

Current Efforts:

Within the direct service component of California's multi-faceted DMC approach, support and leadership will continue with the 13 counties currently receiving DMC grants. This year's focus will include a **project director's meeting** involving two days of workshops, peer-to-peer learning and problem-solving discussions specific to the challenges across jurisdictions.

Additionally, in June 2011, CSA will offer another training opportunity whereby project directors and other related staff from our Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, Youthful Offender Block Grant and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act will participate in a newly developed DMC training which will include a complex discussion of implicit bias and DMC.

As the mission for the DMC Subcommittee is to ensure intentional, collaborative and multi-faceted approaches to eliminate bias and reduce the overrepresentation of youth of color coming into contact with the juvenile justice system, the activities in 2011 will primarily focus on continued state-level leadership with a highly focused effort toward policy development (while maintaining current 2011 activities associated with Direct Service and Education). This will include the development and implementation of the following:

- Racial impact statement;
- Re-evaluation and defining of DMC ‘success’;
- Review of juvenile justice detention guidelines through the race/ethnicity lens for improvements;
- Exploration of the growing movement of ‘Race History/Race Healing’ venues and possible California implementation of such efforts; and
- Enhancement of race/ethnicity prioritization across state youth serving systems.

To support system improvement/reform, the SACJJDP has implemented a pioneering approach entitled Probation and Court-Based Alternatives (Agenda Item C) focused on reducing those youth detained but who do not pose a public safety risk. This is a strategic funding stream based on statewide data indicating that many jurisdictions are routinely detaining youth as a result of Failures to Appear (FTAs), Violations of Probation (VOPs) and bench warrants which do not necessarily pose a public safety risk but certainly exacerbate the DMC and the cost to the county for unnecessary detention. The SACJJDP and CSA are funding eight (8) probation departments to reduce the over use of detention by providing tools and leadership for counties to address local issues. The projects will be fully implemented and operational by July 2011, using best-practices to reduce the number of youth detained.

In late 2010, the CSA concluded the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) process to implement a culturally responsive **Tribal Youth Grant** (TYG). The TYG has been implemented in two tribes and based upon the beliefs and values associated with Native Culture. Annual funding for this program was increased along with addition of a fourth year to assist the tribes with development of infrastructure.

As you may recall from the January 2011 SACJJDP meeting, the highly anticipated **Title II Request for Proposals (RFP)** focusing on Alternatives to Detention, Holistic Approaches to Offender Counsel and Restorative Justice Programs is underway. The first phase of the competitive process, requiring a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), was released to the field on March 11, 2011 with a due date of April 8, 2011. The Title II Formula Block Grant ESC members are finalizing the 2nd phase of the process regarding RFP development.

Lastly, the **Juvenile Accountability Block Grant** funds continue to strategically support our local youth-serving partners as it relates to system-wide Evidence-Based Practices (Attachment C). CSA and SACJJP continue to support best practices that yield better outcomes for youth.

Each of these programs and activities are a reflection of the SACJJDP leadership toward much needed system improvements/reform. The commitment of the CSA, SACJJDP, DMC Subcommittee and the local partners will result in bettering the lives of California youth, families and communities.

Recommendation/Action Needed: Update